



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 121 Breneman Collection

Date of Records: 1861-1867

Size: 1 box

Finding Aid: by Eric W. Boyle (2012)

Biographical Note: E. DeW. Breneman (sometimes spelled Brenneman, Brenemann, or Brennerman) was a Union Army assistant surgeon during and after the Civil War. Letters in the collection reveal that Breneman was asked to resign due to his impaired health in 1861. Breneman agreed but in early 1862 he was ordered to report to the Surgeon General's Office in Washington DC. He subsequently worked in hospitals in Philadelphia and New York before being appointed to a Board of Officers in 1863. Breneman continued to accompany and attend to a number of regiments before being assigned Surgeon in Charge of Division Hospitals in 1864. Breneman accompanied ambulance trains, traveled extensively to various hospitals and battlefields, and briefly was assigned to work at the White House. After the war, in 1867, Breneman was ordered to report to Missouri for assignment as medical officers were much needed out west. Breneman subsequently asked to resign because of family matters of an urgent private nature. His request was accepted by the President in March 1867.

Series/Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of correspondence and special orders between Breneman and other officials during the Civil War, donated to the Museum in 1964. Correspondence includes sixty-two letters detailing the responsibility of medical officers to receive and transport specimens to Surgeon General Brinton at the Medical Museum in Washington DC, along with letters detailing the role of enlisted men in assisting Breneman in his work in the Army Medical Museum. The collection also includes a listing of letters with brief description of subjects that serves as the basis for this finding aid.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001: Breneman Collection List of Letters With Subjects

00002: Breneman, 1861-1862

1. Henry H. Smith to Breneman re: appointment to Asst. Surgeon General (6/6/61)
2. Smith to Breneman re: orders to West Chester (6/8/61)



3. Smith to Breneman re: reporting to Surgeon Reed (6/27/61)
4. Lemise A. Edwards to Breneman re: resignation due to impaired health (11/25/61)
5. Breneman to SGO Office re: agreement to resign (11/27/61)
6. SGO to Breneman re: expectation that he will be commissioned (2/6/62)
7. A.B. Porter to SGO re: recommendation for Breneman (5/16/62)
8. Special Order #159 ordering Breneman to report to Major General McClellan
9. E. Simmons to SGO re: recommendation for Breneman (7/13/62)
10. SGO to Breneman re: transfer to West Philadelphia hospital (8/17/62)
11. Special Order #194 to report to Medical Director of Philadelphia (8/18/62)

00003: Breneman, 1863

1. Special Order #121 to report to Army of the Potomac (3/14/63)
2. Hayes to SGO re: recommendation for Breneman (3/25/63)
3. Special Order #89 re: assignment to 5th Corps of the 12th Infantry (7/23/63)
4. Henry James to Breneman re: charge of wounded personnel evacuate to NYC (7/28/63)
5. James to Breneman re: change of command assignment (8/15/63)
6. SGO Office to Breneman re: appointment to Board of Officers (9/4/63)
7. SGO to Breneman re: convening of board in NYC (9/4/63)
8. Pass for Breneman from Headquarters Military District of Washington (8/9/63)
9. Office of Surgeon-in-Chiefs to Breneman re: medical aid to two other units (9/12/63)
10. Special Order to accompany Companies F & H of the 12th Infantry (9/16/63)
11. Special Order to attend to the sick of the 3rd Infantry (11/11/63)
12. Special Order to attend to the sick of the 11th Infantry (11/12/63)
13. Special Order to be relieved of duty with 11th and 12th Infantry (10/11/63)
14. Special Order assignment to 3rd Infantry and 2nd and 7th Regiments (12/29/63)

00004: Breneman, 1864

1. Special Order to temporarily relieve Asst. Surgeon Helsby with 3rd Infantry (1/8/64)
2. Special Order to temporarily take charge of Division Hospitals (1/11/64)
3. Charley Werive to Breneman re: reporting to Office of Surgeon-in Chiefs (2/14/64)
4. Special Order assigning Breneman to Division Hospitals (2/15/64)
5. Special Order detailing Breneman to accompany remains of Asst. Surgeon Colton (3/4/64)
6. Special Order to accompany sick and wounded to Alexandria (4/20/64)



7. Special Order to accompany ambulance train (4/25/64)
8. Special Order to take charge of wounded and accompany them to Gen. Hospital (5/7/64)
9. Special Order relieving Breneman (5/13/64)
10. Special Order to battlefields in the wilderness (5/19/64)
11. Special Orders assigning medical officers to posts (9/24/64)
12. Special Order assigning Breneman to Fredericksburg (5/19/64)
13. Special Order assigning Breneman to Surgeon Dalton at White House (6/2/64)
14. Letter from U.S. Grant authorizing receipt of medical supplies (5/18/64)
15. Letter to Surgeon Dalton requesting support to receive and transport specimens to the Medical Museum (6/6/64)
16. Letter detailing assistance to Breneman in work for Museum (6/9/64)
17. Dalton to Breneman re: charge of hospital transport of wounded (6/27/64)
18. Special Order to report to 4th Infantry in Virginia (7/1/64)
19. Dalton to Breneman re: assignment to 4th Infantry (7/4/64)
20. Special Orders for leave of absence (11/20/64)
21. Army Headquarters to Breneman re: transport from Virginia to Baltimore (11/20/64)

00005: Breneman, 1865-66

1. Special Orders assigning Breneman to Headquarters of the Armies (3/25/65)
2. Telegraph to Breneman re: travel (5/1/65)
3. Special Order confirming duty with 5th US Cavalry (10/28/65)
4. Special Order granting leave of absence (10/3/65)
5. Special Orders from Grant to report to West Point, NY (10/7/66)
6. Special Orders re: trip to West Point (5/31/66)
7. Grant to Barnes asking to keep Breneman present summer and fall (8/3/66)
8. Special Orders from Grant to proceed to New York City (9/27/66)

00006: Breneman, 1867

1. Special Orders to be relieved from duties at Hdqrs. and report to Missouri (3/2/67)
2. SGO to Breneman re: reporting to Missouri (3/2/67)
3. Breneman to SG Barnes re: return of trunk of surgical instruments (3/6/67)
4. SGO to Breneman re: permission to turn in his surgical instruments (3/7/67)
5. Breneman to Asst Surgeon General Leet re: resignation due to family matters (3/11/67)



6. Asst AG Kelton to Breneman re: acceptance of resignation (3/20/67)
7. Special Orders re: acceptance of resignation by President (3/20/67)
8. Breneman to Dalton re: assignment and forwarding specimens to Museum (6/8/???)